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COMPARISON OF HUNGARIAN WAGES AND PRICESArbeiter-Zeitung
Vienna, 3 Jan 1954

At present, the average wage of the Hungarian worker and government employee is between 880 and 1,000 forints a month. The monthly wage of a specialist who fulfills his work norm, or of a head bookkeeper, a foreman, or a government employee in a comparable position, is 1,200 forints. A chief engineer earns 1,600 to 1,800 forints. Women, laborers, and clerical personnel get only 500-700 forints. About 15 percent of the wages of all workers except Stakhanovites is withheld for official charities, especially for the "Peace Fund."

The prices (in forints) of the most important consumer goods, per kilogram, are as follows:

White bread	3.00	Potatoes	2.20- 3.20
Ordinary bread	2.40	Flour	4.00- 7.00
Rice	22.00	Beef	22.50
Beans	13.00	Veal	23.50
Grapes	10.00	Cube sugar	12.00
Apples	5.50	Crystallized	
Coffee	400.00	sugar	10.20

There is a constant shortage of fats, and a periodic shortage of various other important foodstuffs. A standard pair of men's shoes costs 400-700 forints, a standard men's shirt 110-220 forints. Radios can be bought in unlimited quantities. Foreign products are completely lacking.

A family of three requires 2,000 forints a month to live very modestly, but only 10 percent of the population has an income this high.

The work norms are repeatedly changed. At the Ganz Railroad Car and Machine Factory in Budapest, half of the workers fulfill only 50-60 percent of the prescribed norms. Therefore, they earn only 500-600 forints, the minimum wage for workers.

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